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## Celebrity Buzz

Noel says  
he was a  
soccer  
hooligan  
pg 14



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## Derks

## Home prices fall, condo sales rally

**HOUSING** Prices for single-family homes are on the decline, but condo prices in Edmonton surprisingly rallied through the worldwide economic downturn, according to figures from the Realtors Association of Edmonton.

The average price for a single-family dwelling dropped three per cent to \$351,870 after negligible change for two months. But condo prices, which had dropped more than eight per cent in the two previous months, were up 1.2 per cent in November 2008.

"Sellers resisted the market and global forces that dragged prices down, but they will eventually discover that buyers will not buy at last year's prices," said outgoing association president Marc Perras.

METRO EDMONTON

Travel pg 11



Day trip to  
Chernobyl?

World pg 5

Egypt's Gaza  
truce studied

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Snowboard **Riding the rails**



BEN LEMPHERS FOR METRO EDMONTON

Layne Treeter of Edmonton slides down the handrail of a long staircase in Louise McKinney Park on his snowboard yesterday afternoon.

## New trial in Courtepatte murder

VICTORIA HANDYSIDES  
victoria.handysides@metronews.ca

**A man found guilty of the brutal slaying of 13-year-old Nina Courtepatte has won an appeal of his conviction.**

The Alberta Court of Appeal released a decision yesterday that states Joseph Laboucan will face another trial for the April 2005 rape and murder of Courtepatte, who was found dead on a west-end golf course.

Two of the three judges who heard the appeal determined the trial judge erred in assessing Laboucan's credibility as a witness.

"The error played an essential part in the reasoning process ... For these reasons, we allow the appeal and order a new trial on the indictment as framed in the Court of Queen's Bench," the written decision stated.

Witnesses claimed during the 2007 trial that Laboucan was the ringleader of the violent murder. The group allegedly lured Courtepatte and a friend from West Edmonton Mall with a promise of a bush party. When they arrived, the 13-year-old was allegedly raped multiple times, stabbed, and beaten to death with a sledgehammer.

Laboucan claimed he was unaware the party was a ruse, and has maintained his innocence since his arrest.

Defence lawyer Laurie Wood said yesterday that she is thrilled with the decision.

"In the interest of justice, I think that this is a good day," she said. "I never saw a side of (Laboucan) that was anything less than polite, soft-spoken, gentle and never saw a violent side to him."

## Half of surveyed EPS personnel wanted to quit: Report

JEFF CUMMINGS  
jeff.cummings@metronews.ca



**SURVEY** More than half of all employees with the Edmonton Police Service who responded to a survey on work satisfaction say they

have "seriously considered" quitting in the past year, according to a new report.

Meyers Norris Penny LLP completed the 58-page report, commissioned by the Edmonton Police Service, in December.

"Workplace morale was the primary consideration for leaving, followed by pay, work-life balance, other job opportunities and career development opportunities," cited the report.

About 46 per cent of sworn-in employees of the

Edmonton Police Service said they were dissatisfied or extremely dissatisfied with workplace morale and 41 per cent felt the same about their benefits.

And of the 51 per cent of the responding employees who said they were serious-

ly considered quitting their jobs in the last 12 months, 69 per cent said low morale in the service was a factor.

Police spokesman Dean Parthenis says the service will be following up with all of the concerns revealed in the survey.

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**More drunk drivers caught in 2008 holiday season**

Results from the Christmas checkstop campaign are in, and show that drunk driving is on the rise in Edmonton. Police nabbed 1,993 impaired drivers this season, compared to 1,947 caught in 2007. **METRO EDMONTON**

3

# Local



## Red Cross seeks volunteers

The Canadian Red Cross will be holding an open house on Jan. 14 to advertise and recruit volunteers for various positions. Head to 9931 - 106 Street between 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. for more information or to apply.

METRO EDMONTON



10 Tonight



# Citytv

ROGERS™

### News in brief

**BREAK-IN** A police dog helped officers track and arrest a teenager who allegedly broke into a north-end home yesterday. Police received reports of two suspects breaking into vehicles in the area of 116 Street and 168 Avenue. After tracking footprints and tire marks in the snow, officers found the suspects' car abandoned and on fire near 104 Street and Castledowns Road. Officers found a 17-year-old suspect in a nearby home, and charged him with several theft and possession of stolen property offences. **METRO EDMONTON**

metronews.ca

WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

**Video** Nanotechnology creates smell-free socks and germ-free toilets at [metronews.ca/canada](http://metronews.ca/canada)

**Video** Jim Flaherty previews budget measures to boost the economy at [metronews.ca/canada](http://metronews.ca/canada)



## Local winger brings back gold

JEFF CUMMINGS  
jeff.cummings@metronews.ca

**Still tired after walking off the airplane at the Edmonton International Airport yesterday, hometown forward Tyler Ennis says he's still thrilled as his fellow Canadian juniors took gold in an exciting and emotional hockey tournament in Ottawa.**

The 19-year-old winger only spent a few hours with family in Edmonton yesterday, as he laced up his skates for his Medicine Hat Tigers at Rexall Place last night against the Oil Kings. And that's after not getting much sleep from all the celebrating as Canada beat Sweden 5-1 on Monday night for its fifth straight world junior gold medal.

"It was awesome, especially being in Ottawa — the fans were crazy," he said. "It was a pretty emotional night and it was the best time ever to have it happen for the fifth time in a row in Ottawa."



Edmontonian Tyler Ennis, a member of Canada's world junior hockey team, arrives at the Edmonton International Airport after his team's 5-1 gold-medal win over Sweden in Ottawa.

Ennis says communicating to his fellow players was a difficult task as loud fans packed into the rink every game, especially in Canada's final tilt against Sweden.

"You couldn't hear the

ref blow the whistle a lot of times, it was so loud," said Ennis. "There was so many people painted in red and white."

As the flags were raised for the national anthem after the game Monday

night, Ennis says he was thinking about growing up in Edmonton playing hockey.

"When I listen to the national anthem, it just gives me chills right now," said Ennis.

## Onus on adults to find out age of dates: Expert

**DATING** Adults seeking dates online need to look out for teenagers who falsify their identities, as much as children need to protect themselves from predators, an expert says.

"It can be a tricky thing, because some teenage girls can look older than they really are and lie about their age," said Beyond Borders spokeswoman Corey Martell.

Michael Hoffart, 27, of Sherwood Park, met a girl online who allegedly claimed she was 20, and he's now facing charges because the girl is under the age of consent.

It wasn't until the two were allegedly caught by police while engaging in sexual activities in Hoffart's car near Gibbons on Saturday that he learned the girl was 15.

"I was disgusted with myself beyond mortification when the arresting officer told me how old she was," Hoffart told Metro.

VICTORIA HANDSIDES  
/ METRO EDMONTON

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# Canada



## Drive-thrus hit speed bump

City council in St. John's, N.L., has passed a bylaw making it harder for restaurants to open new drive-thrus in that city. The onus will now be on restaurant operators to prove to the city's traffic department that lineups from any new drive-thru will not spill out onto city streets and cause traffic problems.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

# Military hearing told of alleged shooting

**A witness reported seeing Capt. Robert Semrau fire at a severely injured, unarmed Taliban fighter after an ambush in October, a military hearing was told yesterday.**

A synopsis of events introduced at the hearing and agreed upon by the military prosecution and defence lawyers provided the first detailed glimpse of the circumstances that led to the 35-year-old Canadian Forces officer being charged with second-degree murder.

It was read at a hearing into whether Semrau, a member of the 3rd Battalion of the Royal Canadian Regiment, should be released from custody until he stands trial. Military Judge Lt.-Col. Louis-Vincent d'Auteuil reserved his decision until today.

The charge has provoked controversy because it was laid more than two months after the death of the Taliban fighter in Afghanistan's Helmand province Oct. 19.

According to the statement, Semrau was the on-



Capt. Robert Semrau, front, is escorted by military police after a bail hearing at Canadian Forces Base Petawawa in Ontario yesterday. Semrau is charged with second-degree murder in the death of an unarmed man in southern Afghanistan last October.

ly soldier in the "proximity" of the wounded insurgent when two shots were heard. The hearing was told that a witness will testify later he saw Semrau fire at the Taliban fighter,

who had already been disarmed.

Prosecutor Maj. Marylene Trudel said the Taliban fighter's body was left behind as the soldiers moved on, and was never

recovered.

The prosecution believes Semrau fired both shots, killing the wounded insurgent without lawful justification, Trudel said. This is the first time a criminal charge has been laid against a Canadian soldier in Afghanistan involving the death of an alleged enemy fighter.

The hearing was held in a nondescript room at CFB Petawawa, Ont., where a life-and-death battle half-way around the world was described in terms most people would only recognize from a "Hollywood movie," as the defence lawyer said.

As the statement was read out, Semrau's 35-year-old wife, Amélie Lapierre-Semrau, a kindergarten teacher in nearby Pembroke, tried unsuccessfully to keep their 7-month-old daughter, Caméa Michelle Semrau, from crying out.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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edmontonletters@metronews.ca

## New group created to tackle credit crunch

**ECONOMY** A new working group of bank and government officials is being asked to immediately begin looking at ways to make loans more accessible to Canadian consumers and business, Finance Minister Jim Flaherty said yesterday.

"We all have responsibilities to ensure that the financial system functions properly in support of the Canadian econ-

omy and certainly the government has a role to play in that. I encourage the heads of banks, the CEOs, to work with the government," he said before heading into pre-budget consultations.

It was Flaherty's first comment on a meeting he and Bank of Canada governor Mark Carney held behind closed doors with bank CEOs in Toronto Monday.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



Jim Flaherty

## CUPE proposal called anti-Semitic

**BOYCOTT** A proposal by the president of the largest union in the province to boycott Israeli academics at Ontario universities is being labelled as anti-Semitic and an affront to civil liberties by prominent members of Canada's Jewish community.

"CUPE has no business boycotting academics, whether they are Israeli or Jewish," said Avi Benlolo,

president of the Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Centre. "It goes against the grain of academia."

On Friday, CUPE Ontario president Sid Ryan called for the boycott of Israeli academics and educators who do not condemn the Dec. 29 bombing of the Islamic

**"CUPE has no business boycotting academics."**

Avi Benlolo

University in Gaza and "the assault on Gaza in general."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

## Hospital report leads to lawsuit

**HEALTH** A former patient is suing a Toronto hospital that published a study describing how sinks were responsible for the spread of a drug-resistant bacteria in its intensive-care unit.

Researchers at the Toronto General Hospital found the location and design of sinks in the ICU led to the spread of pseudomonas aeruginosa in the ward. The details of their discovery

were outlined in this month's Journal of Infection Control and Hospital Epidemiology.

Ronald Sherman, 69, the plaintiff, was one of those who became sick. He was admitted to Toronto General in November 2005, with severe pneumonia, which worsened, according to the claim, when he became infected with pseudomonas.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

## News in brief

**SETTLEMENT** The B.C. Human Rights Tribunal has ruled in favour of a woman whose supervisor offered her marijuana, lingerie and truck tires in return for sex. Kori Harrison, 27, was awarded \$32,000 yesterday at the conclusion of the three-year hearing.

**NEGOTIATIONS** Employers expect to respond Friday to the union's latest contract offer in talks aimed at avoiding a strike or lockout of dock foremen at Canada's Pacific Coast ports. The threat of a work stoppage has hung over the ports since the beginning of

the year, but the employers' bargaining group remains cautiously optimistic a deal can be reached before any job action begins, a spokesman said yesterday. The two sides would have to issue a 72-hour notice before launching a strike or lockout.

**P.E.I.** An ivory gull, normally seen only in the far north, has settled in on P.E.I.'s north shore for the past week, CBC News Online reports. Ivory gulls, the only all-white gulls, usually do not venture even as far south as Newfoundland.

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**Ex-Nepali 'slave girls' demand rehabilitation**

Hundreds of girls, rescued after being sold off by their poor parents as domestic help, marched in Kathmandu yesterday demanding rehabilitation-like jobs and an education. **REUTERS**

5

# World

## Truce plan studied

Egypt proposes Gaza ceasefire as deaths mount

**Israel and Hamas studied an Egyptian proposal for a ceasefire in the Gaza Strip yesterday that won instant backing from the U.S. and Europe, hours after Israeli shells killed 42 Palestinians at a UN school.**

However, Israeli officials also said a major escalation of their 12-day-old offensive would be discussed. Troops would be pushed deep inside Gaza's cities and refugee camps in a bid to end rocket salvos into Is-

rael by Islamist militants.

In an attack that wounded dozens of civilians, the Israeli army accused Hamas of using civilians as "human shields" and said its troops had fired at the premises after gunmen mortared their positions from inside the school.

The attacks prompted U.S. president-elect Barack Obama to break his silence, saying civilian deaths were "a source of deep concern" for him, but

### Aid corridor

• Israel will set up a "humanitarian corridor" to counter a crisis caused by its offensive in the Gaza Strip. Periodic access would be granted to parts of the strip to allow Palestinians to stock up on vital goods.

that only the current administration will speak on U.S. foreign policy until he is sworn in. **REUTERS**

### Mexico Awareness tour



Antonio Tomaselli, 30, rides his bike yesterday in Mexico City. Tomaselli started a bike tour eight months ago in northern Alaska, making his way through Canada and the United States, to bring attention to violence against women.

### Indian PM slams Pakistani inaction

**NEW DELHI** Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh accused Pakistan yesterday of acting irresponsibly, saying November's Mumbai attacks must have had support from some of Pakistan's official agencies. Pakistan rejected the accusation, saying India had begun a propaganda offensive and such charges jeopardized chances of co-operation.

Singh's comments show New Delhi's growing frustration at what it sees as Islamabad's slowness at identifying and arresting the attack's planners. India blames Pakistan militants for the organized strikes by 10 gunmen in November that killed 179 people. **REUTERS**

### Site makes inaugural style easy

**STYLE** Andrew Jones confesses he is the last person you would turn to for fashion advice, but his new website launched last month allows women to register which gown they will wear to dozens of dinners and balls being held

in conjunction with Barack Obama's swearing in as the next U.S. president.

Jones, who has a banking background, said he got the idea for dressregistry.com several years ago from his more fashion-conscious wife. **REUTERS**

### News in brief

**ASIA** China faces surging protests and riots this year, a state-run magazine said in a blunt warning of the hazards to Communist Party control because of a sharp economic downturn. Faltering growth could spark anger among millions of migrant workers and university graduates left jobless, said a report in Outlook (Liaowang) Magazine, run by the country's official

Xinhua news agency.

**ILLNESS** China has confirmed that a 19-year-old woman died of the H5N1 bird flu virus in Beijing, the World Health Organization said yesterday. China recorded three cases of bird flu last year, all fatal. Experts fear that the disease could mutate into a form strong enough to kill millions worldwide. **REUTERS**

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# Comment & Views

## Comment

# Give banks some credit

Despite war of words, stats show loans are still flowing

## MoneyMatters

Charles  
Davies

Veteran Business Writer

As a onetime inmate of the Canadian banking system, I can tell you from first-hand experience that bankers are prone to excesses and lapses in judgement. The bank I worked for — one of the Big Five — has long had an eerie proficiency at messing up, finding itself covered in goo after the bursting of every financial bubble in recent decades. Banks are also the institutions we love to hate. We may need them, but there's always that sense that, like the unreconstructed Scrooge, they are gouging us.

But are they turning us away in our hour of economic crisis? If you believe Finance Minister Jim Flaherty and Bank of Canada

**Even the Bank of Canada admitted in its December financial system review that "credit growth ... has generally been sustained throughout the crisis."**

governor Mark Carney, the banks are shutting off the lending taps just when we need credit most. The banks are charged with sopping up the liquidity that Ottawa and the Bank of Canada has provided to stimulate lending and using it to strengthen their own balance sheets. A war of words has been waged between the two sides since early December, and this week Flaherty and Carney called top bankers in for a meeting to apply direct pressure.

On the evidence, Flaherty and Carney don't have much of a case. Using the

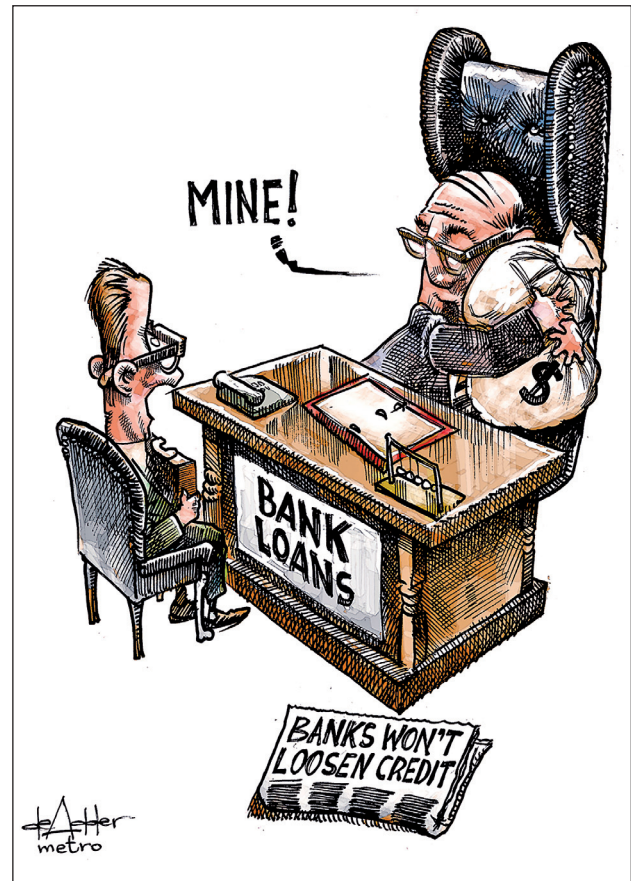
Bank of Canada's own statistics, Toronto Dominion Bank argued recently that loans have kept flowing through the crisis. From September to November, household credit was up more than 12 per cent year to year while business credit rose 13.4 per cent — hardly suggesting a credit squeeze. It's also been noted that Canadian banks made up some of the difference as foreign banks and auto financing arms fled the market.

Even the Bank of Canada admitted in its December financial system review that "credit growth ... has generally been

sustained throughout the crisis."

Banks could be forgiven if they were a whole lot tighter. Ironically, Ottawa's bank regulator, the Office of Superintendent of Financial Institutions, has been signalling that it may raise regulatory capital requirements this year, a good reason to hoard cash. Besides, in a weak economy, banks normally become more scrupulous lenders and boost reserves because there's a greater likelihood of loan defaults. That's only prudent, given that the banks' first responsibility is to assure viable operations in order to protect depositors' funds. Staying healthy also helps preserve shareholder value which affects a majority of Canadians who, directly or indirectly, own bank stock. What's good for them is at least partly what's good for most of us.

Charles Davies is a veteran business writer and editor who has worked for news organizations and publications including Business Week, Canadian Business, Report On Business magazine, Reuters, and Financial Post.



## Letters

### Lives cut short in Gaza

The Israelis have been bombing the Gaza Strip continuously and at such a rapid rate that everyone is just in utter shock.

How can they even think

about dropping bombs and missiles on these innocent people, especially the children?

These children still haven't had a chance to see anything in the world.

EMAN KADRI, CALGARY

## Word on the street: What's your new year's resolution — and have you already broken it?

**Simon Kursa**

age 31,  
Edmonton

A: I wanted to make sure I do yoga or go to the gym at least three times a week, and I haven't broken it yet.

**Vanessa Backman**

age 31,  
Edmonton

A: I didn't make a new year's resolution this year, because I knew I would break it.

**Jen Galligan**

age 43, Calgary

A: Mine is to hopefully drop 20 pounds. So far, I'm sticking to it. That's one resolution I can say I didn't break.

**Zach Pipes**

age 19, Calgary

A: I didn't really make any this year. I never went along with it for the last two years I made them ... so what's the point?

**Michelle Richardson**

age 36, Ajax, Ont.

A: To save a heck of a lot more than I have in the past. I started over the holidays, putting a limit on each gift. I've stuck to that.

**Jamie Hunter**

age 36,  
Vancouver

A: To take salsa dancing classes. I've paid my money so I'll have to go. My girlfriend won't let me skip out.

**Sasha MacWhirter**

age 20, Ottawa

A: I'm just trying to live a healthy lifestyle every day, but I guess I just broke it by eating French fries.

**Karl Brook**

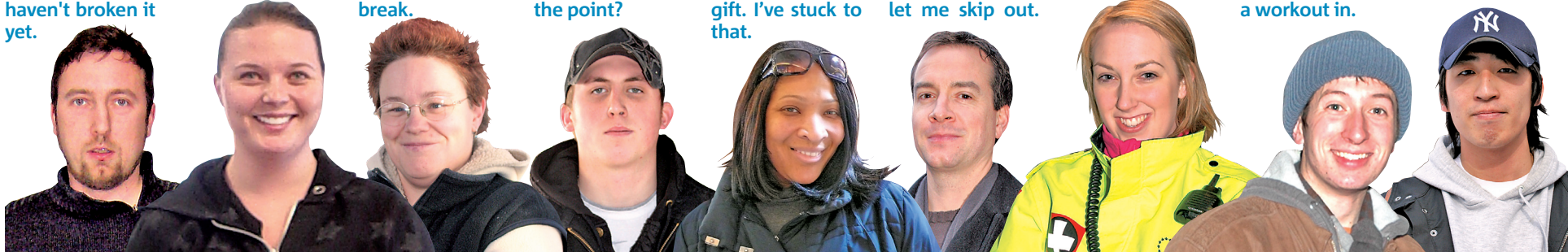
age 21, Ottawa

A: I haven't broken it yet. My resolution was to work out once a week and I've still got two more days to get a workout in.

**Rick Park**

age 27, Halifax

A: I'm going to run a marathon. Today, I'm going to the gym with my friends — it's my fourth day at the gym.



It's your turn to tell others what you think. E-mail your thoughts and opinions to: [edmontonletters@metronews.ca](mailto:edmontonletters@metronews.ca)

Letters must include sender's full name, address and phone number — street name and phone numbers will NOT be published. We reserve the right to edit letters.



**New year's detox — for your cellphone**

Maybe it's time for a post-holiday detox? An Australian survey commissioned by Virgin Mobile shows 86 per cent of cellphone users collect numbers of people they don't really know, usually when tipsy or at work-related functions. **REUTERS**

7

# Business

EDITOR: FERMIN DESOUZA, FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

## Markets buck that gloomy feeling

**Despite a seemingly endless tide of bad economic news and forecasts, Canadian stocks experienced a sixth straight day of gains yesterday.**

The recent rally on the TSX has raised the index 14 per cent from its pre-Christmas woes.

Having closed yesterday at 9,472.09 points, the market lows of November (when the TSX dropped to 7,724.76 points) seem to be fading into the past.

But with war in the Middle East and the national economic outlook even grimmer today than three months ago, many remain weary of branding this recent rally as a return to the bullish days of yore.

"From a macroeconomic

### More U.S. rallies

- Strength in the tech sector boosted U.S. stocks yesterday, overshadowing data showing slumping factory orders and dismal pending home sales.

point of view, we do still have job losses ahead of us and we'll certainly see the Canadian economy struggle throughout the first few months of 2009," says James Marple, economic forecaster with TD Economics.

On Monday, Canadian bank and commodity stocks led the way for a modest gain in the index. But those gains came on

the same day Canadian automakers said sales had plunged 21.2 per cent.

Monday's gains on the TSX showed a growing pattern in recent weeks on both Bay and Wall Streets: the markets seem to be rallying on days filled with poor economic data.

David Rosenberg, economist with Merrill Lynch in New York City, said in a report: "As economists keen on assessing the markets, we have to say that we find it absolutely fascinating that since equities bottomed on Nov. 20, the Dow has managed to rack up 1,482 rally points. And they all managed to come on days when the data could hardly have been worse." **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

## Obama says deficit could reach \$1T US

**ECONOMY** U.S. president-elect Barack Obama said yesterday that he expects to inherit a U.S. budget deficit approaching \$1 trillion US and that his administration would have to make some tough budget choices.

Speaking after meeting members of his economic team, Obama said it was possible that trillion-dollar deficits could stretch into coming years and that he and his team want to instill a "sense of responsibility" about future budget choices.

Obama is contemplating large tax cuts of about \$300 billion and potentially as much, if not more, in infrastructure projects and other spending to try to jolt the economy out of recession.

**REUTERS**

## Rogers wireless strong, but cable falters in Q4

**TELECOM** Rogers Communications Inc. posted strong wireless subscriber growth yesterday, but said its weak cable results point to a tough economy.

Rogers said it added 199,000 net wireless subscribers in the traditionally strong fourth quarter, up from 183,000 a year earlier.

Rogers said it sold about 130,000 of Apple Inc.'s iPhones in the three months ended Dec. 31. It also said that of the total wireless subscribers it added, 158,000 were in the postpaid market, matching year-earlier results.

"Overall, we think the wireless result met the market's expectations," National Bank Financial analyst Greg MacDonald wrote in a note to clients.

"Our wireless subscriber results reflect our success in driving greater penetration of more advanced wireless

### Market reaction

- Rogers' shares slid \$1.44, or 3.9 per cent, to \$35.75 in Toronto yesterday.

data devices and services," Rogers Chairman and acting Chief Executive Alan Horn said in a statement.

Horn took over the company's reins from founder Ted Rogers, who died late last year at age 75. The company has yet to announce a permanent successor.

Horn added, however: "Our fourth quarter cable subscriber additions reflect the challenging economic backdrop."

Rogers added just 4,000 basic cable subscribers, down from 20,000 in the year-earlier period, and gained 61,000 digital cable subscribers, flat from a year earlier.

**REUTERS**

### Apple Musical evolution



Philip Schiller, senior vice-president of worldwide product marketing at Apple Inc., announced at the Macworld Convention and Expo 2009 in San Francisco yesterday that the company's iTunes music service will now be digital rights management (DRM) free and available through its iPhone.

### Business in brief

**PRAY** The Church of England published prayers to help comfort Britons who lost their jobs in the financial crisis. "Hear me

as I cry out in confusion, help me think clearly, and calm my soul," says the Prayer on Being Made Redundant. **REUTERS**

## Career Finder

## Air India fires overweight staff

**DISMISSALS** State-run carrier Air India sacked 10 air hostesses for being "exceptionally overweight," a spokesman said yesterday.

**REUTERS**

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New Orleans Saints quarterback Drew Brees won The Associated Press 2008 NFL Offensive Player of the Year award yesterday. Brees threw for 5,069 yards and 34 touchdowns this season, coming up 15 yards short of Dan Marino's all-time single-season record for passing yardage. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

# Sports

SPORTS@METRONEWS.CA



## Beckham makes AC debut

David Beckham made his AC Milan debut yesterday in a friendly against Hamburg SV in Dubai. Beckham has joined the Serie A club on short loan from the Los Angeles Galaxy to keep in shape and stay in contention for the England team during the MLS off-season.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

## Economy strikes NBA

Quietly, but surely, NBA clubs have been discounting seats for their games in recent weeks.

It's a delicate, unprecedented strategy — created, of course, by the economic crisis — and it's become commonplace throughout the NBA, including Canada, where the Toronto Raptors are suffering through a lamentable losing season.

Despite the discounts, attendance figures throughout the NBA are plummeting. Empty seats are sometimes outnumbering those with kiesters in them. And NBA executives are so concerned, sources tell Metro, they've called an emergency meeting, to be held in Phoenix next week.

NBA commissioner **David Stern** has issued a gag order on the meeting but a league exec told Metro: "There's a fear that our fans can't afford or won't keep paying

### YorkReport

**Marty York**

marty.york@metronews.ca

what they've paid in the past for tickets. So next week's meeting is critical."

Best guess: The NBA soon will announce a decrease in ticket prices across the board.

• The NBA's problems here are unquestionably complicated by the fact that some of the Raptors' games are carried on TSN2, which is not available on the country's — and Toronto's — largest cable carrier. Rogers is depriving Canadian basketball fans by excluding TSN2 from its menu, and industry sources suspect its motive is at least partly attributed to its desire to see less competition for its own all-sports network, Rogers Sportsnet.

Whatever, it's a sad and silly situation. Last Friday, TSN2 drew a mere 18,000 viewers for a Raptors-Houston Rockets game.

That's pathetic, considering that many Raps games on the main TSN network attract audiences of around 200,000.

• Speaking of Houston, ex-Raps star **Tracy McGrady**

is upsetting Rick Adelman these days. The Rockets' coach suspects the 6-foot-8 guard has been dogging it on occasion. "Tracy's been very unaggressive at times," Adelman said. "He can't keep playing like this or we just won't be any good."

• The CFL's first major surprise of the year has come in the first week of the year.

Toronto native **Mike Benevides** — despite receiving a multi-year head coaching offer that sources figured he would gladly accept from the beleaguered Argonauts — has elected to stay on as the B.C. Lions' defensive co-ordinator. "Can't figure it out," an Argos source said yesterday. "The guy (Benevides) all but officially signed. We're puzzled. Are we this undesirable?"

• CFLers such as B.C. defensive lineman **Cameron Wake**, Edmonton Eskimos offensive lineman **Patrick Kabongo** and Calgary Stampeders long snapper **Pat MacDonald** have been impressing NFL types during recent workouts and may be close to bolting to the bigger and better-paying league.

And **Greg Marshall** has jumped from his longtime position as defensive co-ordinator of the Winnipeg Blue Bombers to become the Hamilton Tiger-Cats' defensive co-ordinator.

## NHL Taking a bite out of Buffalo



Buffalo Sabres Andrew Peters winces in pain last night after allegedly being bitten by the Ottawa Senators' Jarkko Ruutu. After the game, which Buffalo won 4-2, Peters said Ruutu bit his thumb, which Ruutu denied.

### Camby to NY?

• NBA sources tell Metro sports columnist Marty York that a three-way trade could be imminent, with ex-Raptor Marcus Camby returning to the New York Knicks from the Los Angeles Clippers and the Knicks sending forward David Lee to the Portland Trail Blazers.

### Sports in brief

**NHL** St. Louis Blues forward Paul Kariya underwent successful hip surgery yesterday and will be sidelined indefinitely. Kariya, 34, has played in only 11 games this season, and not

since Nov. 5 against Anaheim. He has two goals and 15 points this season.

**NBA** Denver Nuggets forward Carmelo Anthony will miss

three to four weeks after a visit with a hand specialist confirmed he has a non-displaced metacarpal fracture on his right hand.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

## Bowl advertisers think twice

**The Super Bowl is always high pressure for advertisers. But this year, expect more nail biting, pacing and hand wringing than ever before from chief marketing officers.**

They have good reason to be anxious. A recession that has companies closely watching expenses — and cutting everything from staffing to travel costs — makes the \$3 million US price tag for 30 seconds of commercial time during

NBC's broadcast of the National Football League's championship game on Feb. 1 even more conspicuous than usual. Commercial prices for the Super Bowl are always eye-popping, far above what is paid for any other TV event, partly because it draws more than 95 million U.S. viewers.

Ads during the Academy Awards, another major advertising event which pulled about 32 million U.S. viewers last year, run

about \$1.8 million for a 30-second spot.

Still, NBC sold most of its advertising time for the Super Bowl by the end of the summer at prices around the \$3 million mark. At the moment, it has about 10 per cent of its commercial time left to sell.

This year, General Motors and FedEx decided against running commercials during the Super Bowl, citing the recession.

REUTERS

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# Metro Drive

## New Cadillac at auto show

General Motors announced this week that the 2010 Cadillac SRX will go on display at the 2009 North American International Auto Show in Detroit later this month. The foundering firm is hoping the car's new design and improved features will help it better compete with other luxury rivals.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: KUMAR SAHA, KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

# Great things in small package

## BMW's compact sports coupe makes room for more fun

JIM KERR  
for Metro Canada



**BMW's 1-series is a compact 2+2 sports car available in both coupe and cabriolet form. This is the smallest BMW but great things can come in small packages and the 1-series certainly fits that description.**

Two models are offered. Both the 128i and the 135i come with a 3.0-litre 24-valve DOHC inline six cylinder engine, but the 135i gets a little boost in horsepower with the addition of twin turbochargers and an intercooler.

I took a 135i coupe out for a drive to experience the power and came back smiling about the complete package.

Outside, the 135i has BMW's traditional twin kidney shaped grille but in a smaller form, putting more emphasis on the large air intakes across the bottom of the front fascia.

A sharp bodyline starts at the headlights between the junction of the hood and the front fender and runs straight back the length of the body separating the car's greenhouse area from the lower body.

A chrome strip runs above the frameless door glass and rear side glass, highlighting the coupe's roofline.

Black trim on the B-pillar provides the illusion of a longer side glass, but when viewed directly from the side, the short rear window and trunk lid are obvious. A rear spoiler is inte-

### '09 BMW 135i coupe

**Type:** Compact sports car  
**Price:** \$41,700 MSRP  
**Engine:** 3.0L twin turbo inline 6 cylinder  
**HP:** 300 hp @ 5,800 rpm

#### Highlights

- Sport seats
- Automatic dual zone climate control
- Stability control
- Tilt/telescopic steering

grated into the trunk lid design.

Inside, front seat room is great but rear seat and headroom are limited. The front bucket seats slide forward for rear seat access, but entry is best left for agile friends.

Our coupe came with the optional sport bucket seats. This \$800 option gives 12-way adjustment to both front buckets, with manual control of height, tilt, fore/aft, recline and thigh support. Power side bolsters allow the seat sides to adjust to the driver's profile.

A cup holder is attached to the passenger side of the console. Although it may work well, this is the most ridiculous cup holder I have ever seen and it would be the first thing I would have removed from the car.

The dash gauges are large and round while the rest of the dash is conservative and uncluttered.

A navigation system with iDrive control is optional. The important features for the driver are the start button on the dash and the six-

BMW's 135i coupe may be its smallest model, but the features are anything but pint-sized.



speed shifter between the seats.

The six-cylinder twin-turbo engine comes to life with a muted rumble and gets the adrenaline flowing. Maximum torque starts at only 1,400 rpm, so the car pulls smoothly away from a stop sign and doesn't tire you out in stop-and-go driving.

Step firmly on the gas pedal and the engine feels like it would pull strong forever. Stability control and traction control help keep the rear 245/35R18 inch rubber under control.

This is a performance car with 300 horsepower in a 1,530 kg body and has brakes to match the power. It is nimble on corners and feels effortless to drive even when pushing it hard. It is also surprisingly economical on fuel, which is good because it likes to sip premium grade. The direct fuel injection and variable cam timing enable 7.9 litres/100 km on the highway.

A six-speed automatic transmission with paddle shifters is available for drivers that don't want to shift the manual gearbox, but I found the manual shifter excellent and the clutch has a nice progressive engagement.

Introduced in Canada in 2008, the 1-series BMW has been sold in Europe since 2004. It's a shame we didn't get it here sooner because it is so much fun to drive.



Inside, the dash gauges are large and round while the rest of the dash is conservative and uncluttered.



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## 10 metro drive

## AWD returns in 2009 Toyota Matrix

LORNE DRURY  
for Metro Canada

The Cambridge, Ont.-built Toyota Matrix begins its second generation in 2009 with the return of the all-wheel drive (AWD) option.

In addition to the reintroduction of the AWD option (it was dropped in 2007), the 2009 model also brings back the sporty XRS model.

The new generation has a lower stance than the previous model, but not at the expense of interior space. Inside, many changes have been made including redesigned seats for added comfort, the introduction of a three-spoke tilt/telescopic steering wheel and a new con-

sole design.

Similar to the Corolla, engine choices are the 1.8-litre and the 2.4-litre four-cylinder powerplants. Standard is a four-speed manual with an available four-speed automatic.

The AWD system is the same as the one in the RAV4 and works on-demand.

When slippage is detected on the front wheels, up to 45 per cent of the torque can be transferred to the rear wheels to ensure smooth performance.

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## Makes sense to plug in

AutoPilot

Michael  
Goetz

Veteran auto journalist

recently completed my first test drive in an all-electric vehicle.

I have no idea how many kilometres were possible with a full charge, because half way through my test the salesman took the keys away. He also said if I ever came back to Toys "R" Us, and got on that pink Barbie Escalade again, he would call security.

I wish this guy had spoken with Larry Murphy, as I had. Then he might have better understood my desire to experience the electrical movement. Murphy is best described as GM's future strategist. His job is to predict what personal transportation will look like in the future and how GM might position itself in that future. (I know, I know, GM

**(GM's Larry Murphy) believes the automotive DNA is about to change, to one based around electrical drivetrains, and to one also based on the notion that vehicles will be connected to each other on a grid.**

and the future aren't entirely a done deal, but that's a business story, this is more of a technical one.)

He noted that the DNA of the automobile hasn't changed much in 100 years. Internal combustion engine. Fuelled by some kind of petroleum product. Lots of on-board mechanical and hydraulic systems. This type of vehicle also operates independently of other vehicles — you have to pay attention to the car and to the traffic.

"A relatively dumb machine," says Murphy.

He believes the automotive DNA is about to change, to one based around electrical drivetrains, and to one also based on the notion that vehicles will be connected to each other on a grid. (Murphy considers fuel-cell technology a branch

of electrical; fuel cells convert hydrogen to water and electricity.)

Not everyone agrees with Murphy, but the arguments for shaping cars around this model are compelling, even if you go beyond the obvious one of sustainable and clean energy consumption.

- Electric motors are small and do not need transmissions. This reduces weight and complexity. This also means less maintenance, not more.

- Electric cars have less inherent design constraints. Designers will be free to re-think what vehicle shapes are possible, and where to put people and their cargo.

- Electric cars can go really fast.

- Once connected to a grid so that congestion is

relieved and cars don't crash into each other any more, then you can take even more mass out of the car — because you won't need all the on-board safety systems we need today.

- If all the above works as advertised, and safety and environment issues are under control, then the "automakers" will be able to concentrate more on the fun side of personal transportation. He figures they could eventually operate more like the fashion industry, and bring out fashionable exteriors and interiors almost on a seasonal basis.

Before we get there, there are a few technology bits to work out. Battery technology, for example, is acting like that four-year-old kid that refuses to keep up with the group. But he'll come along, surely. And when he does, I'm sure we'll all be singing our happy little electric song.

Michael Goetz has been writing about cars and editing automotive publications for more than 20 years. He lives in Toronto with his family and a neglected 1967 Jaguar E-type.



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**Budget-friendly Washington, D.C.**

Frommers' list of top destinations for 2009, which focuses on places that are affordable and interesting, is led by Washington, D.C.; the guide notes that almost every major attraction the city has to offer is free. **REUTERS**

# Travel

## Shaky future

The news that Waterford Wedgwood PLC, the makers of crystal and china, filed for bankruptcy protection this week leaves not only the future of employees and several venerable brands up in the air, but also the viability of one of Ireland's top tourist attractions. Visitors flocked to the firm's crystal plant in Waterford, southeast Ireland, to watch glassblowers and other master craftsmen ply their trade; [waterfordvisitorcentre.com](http://waterfordvisitorcentre.com).

METRO NEWS SERVICES



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Julia Dimon stands in front of Chernobyl's reactor No. 4, and takes a reading on her Geiger counter. Right, a rusting ferris wheel, part of a park that was to open the day after the nuclear disaster.



JULIA DIMON/FOR METRO CANADA

# Chernobyl's ghostly remnants

## TheTravelJunkie



The site of an infamous power plant may not be a likely place to spend your vacation but every year, curious tourists make their way to Chernobyl for a look at where the world's worst nuclear disaster took place.

On Apr. 26, 1986, at 1:23 a.m., reactor No. 4 exploded, releasing nearly nine tons of radioactive material into the environment. That's 90 times as much as the Hiroshima bomb.

It contaminated the air,

soil and water in parts of Ukraine, Belarus, Poland and Russia.

There are disputes surrounding the number of deaths the accident caused. The World Health Organization reports that fewer than 50 deaths can be directly attributed to that day, and predicts some 4,000 people could eventually die of radiation exposure released in the melt down.

Greenpeace contends that the eventual fatalities will be closer to 93,000.

However, the contaminated zones are apparently safe enough for tourists to visit. (I'm not entirely convinced, I suppose I'll know for sure if I start glowing green.) There are several Kiev-based tour agencies that offer all-inclusive day trips to Chernobyl.

My own trip to the site began with a 120-kilometre drive from Kiev, to an area near the reactor called the exclusion zone. I presented my passport at a series of checkpoints, got a safety briefing, signed a waiver and drove through a deserted area.

Despite high levels of radiation, everything looked normal. The grass was a healthy shade of green, trees were full and leafy, bees were pollinating. Nature has been resilient — or it appears so, at any rate.

I hopped out of the van and stood in front of the infamous reactor. It was incredible how close I could get, considering there's still radioactive sludge brewing inside.

My Geiger counter was reading off the charts near patches of moss on the

ground. Since the moss is soaked with radiation, tourists are warned against touching or standing on any clumps.

No eating, drinking or smoking either — although the tour group did end up drinking vodka with a guide who claimed it would protect against radiation poisoning.

Next was a visit to Prip'yat, a town three kilometres away from the reactor, from which 45,000 people were evacuated following the disaster.

Walking around this abandoned city, I felt as if I were the last woman on earth. It was post-apocalyptic. Wilderness had taken over, dominating cement structures, causing them to crumble and crack like Roman ruins. Weeds pushed through floor boards and branches

overtook ex-apartments.

Rusted cribs and burnt dolls were scattered around a former preschool. With school books strewn around the room and black boards still fresh with chalky arithmetic, the scene was a time capsule of Soviet-era life.

An amusement park, set to open the day after the nuclear explosion, was just a graveyard of rusting bumper cars and a lone ferris wheel.

The scariest part of the

tour was learning that the "sarcophagus," a concrete-and-steel shell built to contain Reactor No. 4's radioactive spew, is leaking.

Our guide warned that if the proper measurements aren't taken in the next few years to rebuild this deteriorating shelter, there's a real risk of a more severe Chernobyl-type disaster happening again.

Julia Dimon is co-host of Word Travels, airing on OLN, and editor of [thetraveljunkie.ca](http://thetraveljunkie.ca).

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Polanski wants sex case moved from Los Angeles  
Roman Polanski, who last month moved to have a decades-old charge of unlawful intercourse with a minor dismissed, filed a motion this week to have the entire case removed from the Los Angeles Superior Court system and handed to the California Judicial Council for review. EONLINE.COM

# Entertainment

EDITOR: DEAN LISK, DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

## Celebrity split

Medium star Patricia Arquette has filed for divorce from her husband of more than two years, actor Thomas Jane, Los Angeles court papers filed Monday reveal. PEOPLE.COM



Jett Travolta

## ScIENTOlogy says Travolta's spirit is immortal

**John Travolta's son Jett, who died of a seizure last week at age 16, will live on as an immortal spiritual being, according to the beliefs of the Church of ScIENTOlogy which counts the actor and his wife as prominent supporters.**

Jett Travolta is expected to be given a ScIENTOlogy service this week upon his family's return to their Florida home. An autopsy was performed on Monday, but officials in the Bahamas where he died did not release the results.

Celebrity television show Entertainment Tonight said the body was cremated late on Monday prior to the journey back to Florida, but that could not be immediately confirmed.

Outwardly, a ScIENTOlogy funeral consists of practices including eulogies, music, and burial or cremation associated with other mainstream religions, a spokesman at the Church of ScIENTOlogy headquarters in Los Angeles. But ScIENTOlogists do not believe in heaven or hell, although a central belief is the idea that individuals have lived before and will live again, Tommy Davis said.

"There is no concept of heaven and hell. (But) a ScIENTOlogist is interested in the future, and in future generations and making a world that is better," Davis said. REUTERS

### history

- The Church of ScIENTOlogy was founded in 1954 by science fiction writer L. Ron Hubbard.

STEVE GOW  
for Metro Canada

**Of all the criticism that Tom Cruise has received for playing a German soldier in his latest thriller *Valkyrie*, the one that stands out is for his lack of a Bavarian accent.**

"It seems to be the point of contention that will not die and frankly if that's the problem (critics) have, I'm happy," stated screenwriter and co-producer Christopher McQuarrie in a recent interview.

"I'd much rather have them attack me than the people in the story."

But that's precisely the point that's unclear — do fake accents detract audiences from the story? While critics have blasted *Valkyrie* and its use of American, English and German actors speaking in their own dialect as distracting, McQuarrie argues the opposite.

"Everybody walking around speaking these German accents, it starts to feel a little bit like a Mel Brooks comedy," said McQuarrie. "We just said, 'It seems to me that this is a human story as much as it is a German story and can we just dispense with the absurdity?'"

Many filmmakers would debate that argument. Director Edward Zwick, who later this month will be releasing *Defiance* starring Daniel Craig (better known as James Bond), is one. For



Actors Liev Schreiber, left, and Daniel Craig appear in a scene from the upcoming film *Defiance*.

his drama about a group of war-time Russian resistance fighters, the accent was absolutely necessary.

"We had a cast made of

Americans, Australians, English, Lithuanians, Russians and for everyone to speak with a different accent would've been entire-

ly weird to me," Zwick said.

The *Blood Diamond* director also insists that adopting the native accent

**"We had a cast made of Americans, Australians, English, Lithuanians, Russians and for everyone to speak with a different accent would've been entirely weird to me."**

Director Edward Zwick

in which a film is set isn't just for the benefit of authenticity either.

"I think it might've helped Daniel disappear into the part — some people's perceptions of James Bond and a lot of that (needs to) happen very quickly."

Still, getting it right is imperative. Actors who mangle dialects are vilified by critics (I'm looking at you, Keanu Reeves). No matter how slick a flick is otherwise, a movie lives and dies by its character's believability.

It causes one to consider: To fake an accent or not to fake an accent, that's the question. For the makers of *Valkyrie*, the answer comes without regret.

"I'm quite certain that the half of the audience that doesn't have a problem with it would be mocking us now for the outrageous German accents," said McQuarrie, before quickly adding. "I'll take the half that I agree with."

## Stooges guitarist found dead

**Ron Asheton, a guitarist and founding member of the influential rock band The Stooges, was found dead at his home in Ann Arbor, Michigan yesterday, police said.**

Asheton, 60, was found on his couch and appeared to have been dead for several days, Ann Arbor Police Sgt. Brad Hill said.

"We do not expect foul play," Hill said.

Police were called to Asheton's home shortly after midnight after an acquaintance reported that he had been unable to contact him for several days. Asheton's brother, Scott,

is the drummer for The Stooges. The pair were founding members of the band formed in 1967 in Ann Arbor along with frontman Iggy Pop.

Known for a violent and primitive style that featured stage-diving and outrageous antics, The Stooges were part of a late 1960s Detroit-area rock scene that also included the MC5.

The Stooges broke up in 1974 after three albums, limited commercial success and mounting drug problems for Pop.

But backed by Asheton's guitar riffs on songs such as *I Wanna Be Your Dog* and

TV Eye, the band has been credited as a powerful influence on a wide range of bands including The Sex Pistols, The Ramones and The White Stripes.

After The Stooges broke up, Asheton acted in a series of low-budget horror films in the 1980s and 1990s. Asheton, ranked as the 29th greatest rock guitarist by *Rolling Stone*, rejoined The Stooges when the band reunited in 2003 and for the 2007 comeback album, *The Weirdness*.

The band has been nominated for induction into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.



Guitarist Ron Asheton of Iggy & The Stooges performs at the Voodoo music festival in Las Vegas, Nev., in this 2007 file photo.



Ferguson announces surprise wedding

Craig Ferguson made a surprise announcement on his CBS Late Late Show Monday night: He got married over the holidays. Ferguson, 46, wed his longtime girlfriend Megan Wallace Cunningham, an art dealer. PEOPLE.COM



British show Shameless gets American version

NEW SERIES HBO has teamed up with ER executive producer John Wells to develop an American version of the acclaimed British comedy-drama Shameless.

Based on the childhood of its creator, writer Paul Abbott, the original Shameless chronicles a dysfunctional working-class clan led by an alcoholic patriarch. It has aired in the United States on BBC America and Sundance Channel. Wells will adapt the remake with Abbott.

HBO has several projects based on international formats, including the drama In Treatment, an adaptation of an Israeli series, and the comedy pilot Suburban Shootout, based on a British show.

REUTERS

In brief

ACTOR Emmy winner Christine Lahti is returning to the medical genre with USA Network's 90-minute pilot Operating Instructions.

The project centers on Lt. Rachel Scott (Emily Rose), a former Marine who returns from a tour as a Navy surgeon to take a post at a military hospital.

REUTERS

GlobalStyle

Kenya Hunt, exclusively at metronews.ca/globalstyle

See complete online movie listings, trailers, reviews and purchase tickets at metronews.ca/movies

Il through history the great religions have spoken to the return of a future Teacher. The Christians hope for the return of the Christ, the Buddhists look for the coming of a new Buddha, while the Muslims await the Imam Madhi, the Hindus a reincarnation of Krishna and the Jews the Messiah. How will we know Him? Surely He will ring our hearts with a message of sharing, justice and brotherhood. How can we prepare the way for Him? Each day brings opportunities, large and small, to act in favor of unity and justice. Our willingness to share will make a real difference in our world. www.shareintl.org

Music business explores ways to reach more women

MUSIC With CD sales dropping fast, the music business is exploring nontraditional ways to expose consumers to recording artists. Among the new sales and marketing vehicles are Tara Leigh Music Party and musicShop.

Both launched in November to target female music buyers. Tara Leigh is part of House Party, an Irvington, N.Y., company that stages Tupperware party-like events that consumer brands sponsor at private homes. MusicShop, run by Sherman Oaks, California, music branding company Musica, is a featured section of Shop.com, the comparison-shopping engine.

Through Tara Leigh, former EMI marketing executive Josh Ziemann organized 2,500 listening parties at homes throughout the United States. The gatherings attracted a total of 42,000 people, 88 per cent of them female.

Tara Leigh grew out of Ziemann's experience at

EMI. He was vice-president of marketing at the Manhattan label group before heading up business development operations at a Toronto-based digital media company in 2007.

"We were trying to reach adults and market music to them," he recalled. "We looked at the direct-sales market, which is a multibillion-dollar business, and wondered if you could sell music in that model."

House Party provides one such way to reach women in their living rooms. To launch Tara Leigh, Ziemann printed 35,000 catalogs featuring 100 titles from 15 record labels, including albums by such names as Harry Connick Jr., Faith Hill, Enya and Tina Turner. He also compiled a 15-track sampler CD for party attendees and created a taraleighmusicparty.com website.

REUTERS



Tara Leigh Music Party and musicShop, both launched in November, target female music buyers.

3-D misses the point

IntelleVision

Rick McGinnis  
rick.mcginis@metronews.ca

THERE IS SOMETHING WRONG WITH YOUR SET:

There are some deep and serious changes happening to the way people watch TV, changes that are beyond the control of the people who make and broadcast the shows.

The essence of the change is choice, as viewers demand more of it in their selection of shows to watch, and in the technology they use to help expand their choices beyond what's offered by the networks, and when. The industry seems to sense that technology is playing a part, but if two recent stories are any indicator, they're acting true to form and missing the plot entirely.

The Los Angeles Times reported that the Consumer Electronics Show running this week in Las Vegas will showcase 3-D TV technology from companies like Pana-



RENE JOHNSTON/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Philips announced a glasses-free 3-D display, but wouldn't viewers prefer better stories or greater access to shows?

sonic, Samsung and Texas Instruments, hoping to bring into the home the new 3-D technologies behind limited release versions of movies like Bolt and Beowulf.

3-D's first heyday in the '50s produced more kitsch than art in its brief heyday. It's a legacy that comes bundled with every pair of 3-D glasses, as acknowledged by a Texas Instruments executive who told the Times that "unlike earlier attempts, it's not just gimmick to try to sell a bad horror movie."

It's those glasses, however that are probably 3-D's biggest obstacle. Take it from me, nobody wears glasses because they want to, and they're a constant reminder

of the novelty aspect of 3-D. Even though Philips has announced a glasses-free 3-D display, the question no one has been able to answer is why, particularly, viewers will respond more to 3-D imagery as opposed to better stories, or simple access to more shows.

Then there's the news in Broadcasting & Cable magazine that this month will see the debut of HD Seinfeld episodes from CBS. Once again, no one has explained why being able to pick out the pattern on Kramer's Hawaiian shirts will enhance the show's comedy.

Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.

critics'corner

The 35th Annual People's Choice Awards

As the name makes clear, fan votes determine the winners of these awards, which cover movies, music and television. Acting nominees include Kate Hudson, Anne Hathaway, Will Smith, Hugh Laurie and the late Heath Ledger. Up for honors in the music categories are Rihanna, Alicia Keys, Carrie Underwood, Chris Brown and more. Queen Latifah - a nominee for favorite leading lady - returns as host. 9 PM on CHT 10 PM on KREM



Maxed Out

It's only natural for parents to want to give their kids everything they didn't have. But one thing many parents forget to give their children is an understanding of money and budgeting. When you combine kids who think money grows on trees and parents who hate to say no, the result can be disaster. In this new episode, host Alison Griffiths tries to help one such family take control of its spending and teach the kids a few lessons about money. 11 PM on W

ED	C	B	S	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
17/09	2	CFRN	239 318	etalk	Hollywood	Of Murder and Memory (2008, Drama)	Annabeth Gish.			Law & Order: SVU		News (N)
	3	KHQ	- 370	News (N)	Be-Millionaire	Jeopardy! (N)	Wheel-Fortune	Knight Rider (HDTV)		Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order
	4	CBXT	- 307	Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	Just for Laughs		CBC News: the fifth estate (N)		CBC News: The National		The Hour
	6	KREM	- 372	News (N)	Hollywood	The Doctors (N)		Old Christine	Gary Unmarr	The 35th Annual People's Choice Awards		
	7	CKEM	241 347	Law & Order: SVU		13: Fear Is Real (N)		Hates Chris	Friends	I Love Money		Your City
	8	CITV	240 339	ET Canada	Entertainment	House "Lucky Thirteen"		Bones (HDTV PA)		Bones (HDTV PA)		News Hour
	11	OMNI	- -	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons	News		News		The Simpsons	King	Metropia
	12	CBXFT	119 705	Virginie (SC)	L'Epicurie (N)	Le Match des étoiles (N) (SC)		Les Galas 2007 du Festival		Le Téléjournal et Les Nou		TJ Alberta
	13	KXLY	- 371	4 News at 6	4 News at 6:30	Entertainment	The Insider (N)	Scrubs	Scrubs	20/20 (HDTV) (N)		Walters
	16	KAYU	- 373	The Simpsons	Raymond	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Bones (HDTV PA)		Bones (HDTV PA)		News (N)
news	19	CHTV	- -	The Insider (N)	E! News	Knight Rider (HDTV) (N)		The 35th Annual People's Choice Awards (HDTV)				News (N)
	22	KSPS	- 374	NewsHour With Jim Lehrer		Great Performances (HDTV) Kevin Kline stars as Cyrano de Bergerac. (N)					Carnegie Hall	Chihuly Hotshp
	24	WTVS	- 364	(6) Great Performances (HDTV) (N)		TBA		Keeping Up	Being Served	Tavis Smiley	Charlie Rose (N)	
	15	CBCN	502 -	CBC News: The National		Fast Food Junkies		CBC News: The National		CBC News: The National		Fast Food
	21	TWN	505 398	(5) EarthWatch One		EarthWatch One		EarthWatch Two				
	27	CNN	500 500	Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)				Larry King Live		Cooper 360
	54	CTVN	501 391	CTV Newsnet		News	CTV Newsnet	News	CTV Newsnet	News	CTV Newsnet	News
	70	BNN	504 508	Squeeze Play		Market Call		Headline		Market Call	Commodities	Squeeze Play
	20	TSN	400 400	NHL Hockey		SportsCentre (HDTV) (Live)		Off the Record		Heads-Up Poker Champ.		Rodeo: PRCA
	23	net	408 418	Flames Week	Oilers Conn	NHL Hockey Vancouver Canucks at Edmonton Oilers. (HDTV) (Live)		(HDTV) (Live)		Sportsnet Con.		Sportsnet Con.
sports	47	SPEED	417 406	Pinks	Pinks Outtakes	Wrecked	Wrecked	Pinks		Pass Time	Am. Thunder	Pinks
	94	SCORE	410 403	NBA Basketball	Miami Heat at Denver Nuggets. (Live)			Score Tonight				Hardcore Hockey Talk
	9	EDACC	267 351	Truth, Duty, Valour		Law & Order "Chattel"		Old Christine		Sarah Connor Chronicles		Help TV
	14	YTV	552 543	Drake & Josh	iCarly	Scorpion	Prank Patrol	Malcolm-Mid.	Futurama	Adrenaline Proj	Prank Patrol	Falcon Beach
	17	TREE	553 546	Little Bear	Miss Spider	Big Comfy	Rolie Polie Olie	Max & Ruby	Babar	Backyardigans	Dora-Explorer	Go, Diego, Go!
	42	TOON	555 545	Ben 10	Johnny Test	Totally Spies	Total Drama	teen	6teen	Misadventures	Futurama	The Critic
	45	FAM	557 541	Zoe 101	Life Derek	Wizards-Place	That's-Raven	Zack & Cody	Natural-Sadie	Han. Montana	Life Derek	Ned's School
	-	TVA	121 714	TVA 18 heures	Le Cercle (SC)	Poule-oeufs or	Sketch Show	Destinées (HDTV) (SC)		Deux filles le matin (SC)		TVA 22 heures
	18	CMT	575 583	Reba	Reba	Hope & Faith	Hope & Faith	Fortune's Favour		Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Reba
	25	A&E	615 520	Dog the Bounty Hunter	Hunter	Parking Wars	Parking Wars	Parking Wars		Dog the Bounty Hunter		Bounty Hunter
family	26	MMM	571 581	Back In	Back In	All-Time Top 10		Fabulous Life Of...		Party of Five		All-Time 10
	29	FOOD	603 561	Iron Chef America		Top Chef "Focus Group"		Restaurant Makeover		Challenge		Iron Chef Am.
	31	SHOW	617 522	Wife Swap		The Outer Limits		About a Girl		The Guard		Big Love
	32	DISC	520 505	Deadliest Catch		Mayday "Falling From the Sky"		Daily Planet		MythBusters "Pirates 2!"		Dirty Jobs
	33	SLICE	601 562	Real Housewives of OC		Filthy Rich: Cattle Drive		ET Canada	Matchmaker	Real Housewives of OC		Trading Sp
	34	W	602 567	Style by Jury	Style by Jury	Will & Grace	Friends	Grocery Bag	Grocery Bag	How Clean	Too Posh	Maxed Out (N)
	35	TLC	521 560	Solved "Broken Vows"		Personal Justice (N)		Extreme Forensics		Solved "Broken Vows"		Personal Just.
	36	BRAVO	620 523	Wingfield	Wingfield	Três Portugal	Art is a Mirror	Law & Order		Without a Trace		Fatherland
	38	SPIKE	628 584	UFC's Ultimate Fight Night				UFC Unleashed		CSI: NY "Cold Reveal"		Unsolved Myst.
	40	HIST	522 506	The Real Da Vinci Code		NCIS "Hiatus"		Unlocking the Past		Cities of the Underworld		Dig for Truth
cable variety	41	COM	626 547	Laughs	Comedy Now	Air Farce	Just for Laughs		Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	Comedy Inc.
	43	SPACE	627 528	The Dresden Files		Rabbit Fall	Rabbit Fall	Stargate SG-1 "Spirits"		Star Trek: Next Gener.		Deep Space 9
	44	WPCH	294 650	(6) Air Force One (1997, Suspense)		Seinfeld	Family Guy	Family Guy		Air Force One *** (1997, Suspense)		
	46	OLN	411 457	Mantracker		Bounty Hunter	Dakar Rally	Survivorman		Mantracker		Bounty Hunter
	48	TROP	619 525	What Happen?	What Happen?	Reality	Ad Persuasion	Family Guy	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Raymond	Family Guy
	50	STAR	621 527	In Style Celebrity Weddings		The Tonight Show-Jay Leno		TMZ	etalk	The View (HDTV)		Fashionista
	52	HGTV	600 564	Property Virgin	Unsellable	Hid Potential	Really Big Flip	Holmes on Homes		Property Virgin	Unsellable	Mansions
	65	TLN	700 800	(6) Un Ciclone In Famiglia 2		Raymond	Raymond	George Lopez	George Lopez	The Sopranos (SS)		David Rocco
	92	APTN	269 350	APTN National News: Contact		Reservation Soldiers		Canadian Geographic		Tribal Treks	Guides	Wings-Canada
	93	VISION	261 394	Darling Buds of May		John and Yoko: Peace		Pottergeist: The Legacy		On the Waterfront (1954, Drama)		
cable variety	100	MTV	581 566	Bromance		The Real World (N)		MTV Live	After	Next	Parent Control	Real World
	101	MM	570 580	So You Think You Can Dance				PunchMuch		Pimp My Ride	Pimp My Ride	disBand
	102	CPAC	512 396	(6:30) Headline Politics			Revue	Question Period		Prime-Politics	Headline Politics	
	103	VIVA	526 507	The West Wing		Mediums	Psychic Detect	Mediums	Encounters	Judging Amy		Lost in Austen
	106	RDI	126 730	Le Téléjournal (SC)		RDI en direct		Le National	Le Téléjournal (SC)	Le Journal RDI	Le National	Le Téléjournal



## Celebrity Buzz

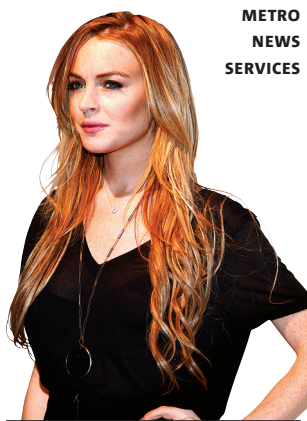
## Lindsay denies breakup rumours

**RELATIONSHIP** Lindsay Lohan strongly denied media reports she has split with Samantha Ronson, people.com reports. In a MySpace Celebrity Blog posting under "rumors," the actress writes, "Little piece of TRUE information: We did NOT break up!"

Lohan, 22, tells media outlets reporting the split, "Get your stories straight please. It's really annoying to have all of your friends emailing you saying, i saw, i read, etc ... NOT TRUE."

She signs the post with a happy face and "xoxox Lindsay," people.com adds.

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## Kate overjoyed for ex, new dad Armstrong

**PEOPLE** Kate Hudson couldn't be more thrilled for former fling Lance Armstrong, who is expecting a child with girlfriend Anna Hansen, usmagazine.com reports.

Asked if she's happy for her ex, she told the website at Monday's Bride Wars premiere in New York, "Of course! Oh, yeah!"

Hudson also said her new "I Do!" comedy hasn't made her want to wed again. (She split from ex-husband Chris Robinson in 2006.)

"I'm a girl. I think all girls, deep down, have that fairy tale thing," she said, adding that she already had her dream wedding. "I was so in love. It was such an amazing day — and it should be," she added. "Relationships and love should be celebrated."

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## Amy's holiday fling?

**PEOPLE** For a change of pace, Amy Winehouse is looking fit in 2009 as she enjoys the Caribbean sunshine alongside a sporty hunk, people.com reports.

The website noted the multiple Grammy Award winner, 25, has been pictured on the arm of former rugby player Joshua Bowman as she continues her vacation in St. Lucia.

Bowman, who is quoted in the U.K.'s Daily Mail saying, "She's just a cool girl, very nice, and we're just very friendly," is said to be on the island with his mother and sister. He is a former player with rugby team Saracens and has since turned to acting.

People.com adds that he said of his new friend, "She's a good laugh — she is such a lovely girl and on great form. I can't say

much more than that."

Some reports are calling her friendship with Bowman a "holiday romance." The actor's reps had no further comment.

Winehouse, who has been plagued with ill health for much of 2008, has been seen kicking a soccer ball around the beach and running on the



sands — clearly loving the life away from the turmoil of her life back in the U.K. that has seen her husband Blake Fielder-Civil jailed.

Winehouse's U.K. rep Chris Goodman is also not commenting on Bowman and he cannot confirm some reports that she and Fielder-Civil have split. Some people close to her expect them to be together when he leaves jail.

"She has been enjoying herself on her break and meeting lots of new people. There are many like-minded people there having extended breaks. Amy is a friendly person and very sociable and behaving exactly as I would expect her to do," Goodman says.

Winehouse keeps extending her time in the Caribbean, but must be back in Europe for a court appearance in Norway on Jan. 12, people.com adds.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

## 'I used to be a hooligan'

**PEOPLE** Noel Gallagher used to be a soccer hooligan, according to femalefirst.co.uk.

The Oasis guitarist confessed his lifestyle used to be even more turbulent before he became a rock star when he went to Manchester City games with notoriously dangerous gangs including Mayne Line Crew, Under-5s and Young Guvnors.

He said: "I knew all that lot and I still see a few of them today. They were quite mad times. Half of us were on the dole."

"The grounds we used to go to 20 years ago were dangerous, especially night games at Leeds and

places like that, and wondering whether or not you'd make it home in one piece."

Noel also revealed how his love for sport inspired his music career when he united the crowd in song at the



GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

Kippax stand at his team's old ground Maine Road.

The 41-year-old rocker, who played live at the famous stadium at the peak of Oasis' '90s popularity, added to Britain's The Sun newspaper: "I did start a song in the Kippax when I'd had a drink. Probably something like, Everywhere We Go or similar and everyone joined in."

"So maybe the first seeds of my songwriting career were sown at the back of the Kippax."

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## Stunts cause Jackman family strife

**PEOPLE** Hugh Jackman is being held responsible for breaking his brother-in-law's leg, wrist and nose, femalefirst.co.uk is reporting.

The gossip website says the Australia actor's sister Sonya banned him from using her husband Richard as his stunt double after he broke so many bones on set.

Hugh, 40, said: "My brother-in-law has doubled for me in a few of my movies. It's a weird situation, though, because things can go wrong."

"One time on Van Helsing he was doubling for me

in a scene where I got really thrown about. He ended up breaking his leg and I had to phone my sister to explain and say I was sending him home."

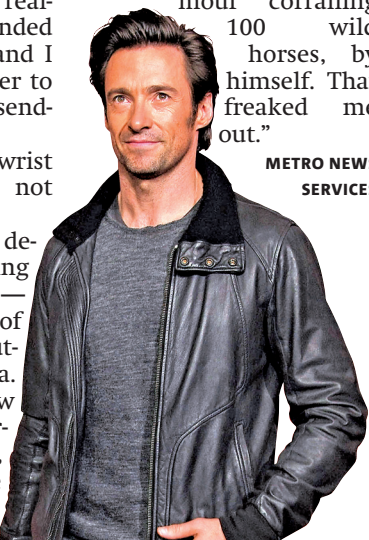
"He's cracked his wrist and nose, too. She's not best pleased."

Hugh recently described how gruelling his role as The Drover — an Australian version of a cowboy — was in out-back drama Australia.

He said: "This is how they describe my character's horsemanship. The Drover, astride his horse like a knight in shining ar-

mour corraling 100 wild horses, by himself. That freaked me out."

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## Brit falls prey to Twitter pranksters

**PEOPLE** Britney Spears has been targeted by online pranksters who have crudely mocked her private parts, femalefirst.co.uk reports. The Womanizer singer was left red-faced when the upsetting message was posted on her account on networking site Twitter.

Twitter officials were quick to take down the offensive message, and insist they are working to make Twitter more secure, the gossip site says.

A notice on the site read: "A number of high-profile Twitter ac-

counts were compromised this morning, and fake/spam updates were sent on their behalf. We have identified the cause and blocked it. We are working to restore compromised accounts."

Britney is not the only famous face to have her Twitter account hijacked. Others to fall foul of jokers include U.S. president-elect Barack Obama, political commentator Bill O'Reilly and U.S. news-reader Rick Sanchez.

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## Smokes and drinks for unpregnant Moss

**PEOPLE** Kate Moss seems to have put an end to rumours that she is pregnant by smoking and drinking on holiday, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The supermodel has been snapped puffing on cigarettes and drinking beer while sunning herself in Thailand with boyfriend Jamie Hince and daughter Lila Grace.

She has however been seen patting her belly and wearing loose fitting clothing leaving onlookers confused but we think it's

safe to say she is not with child, femalefirst.co.uk adds.

The baby rumours began in December when Kate and Jamie were said to have gathered friends and family at their home for a big announcement. She was said to have announced that she wasn't pregnant but at the time not everyone

was convinced. The latest snaps seem to confirm this though, the website says.

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## Cowell helps singer Cole

**PEOPLE** Simon Cowell has hired a team of top lawyers to help get Cheryl Cole a U.S. working visa, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The music mogul — who hired the Girls Aloud singer as a judge on U.K. TV talent show The X Factor — is so keen to kick start the star's career in America he is doing everything he can to convince authorities to allow her to sing in the country.

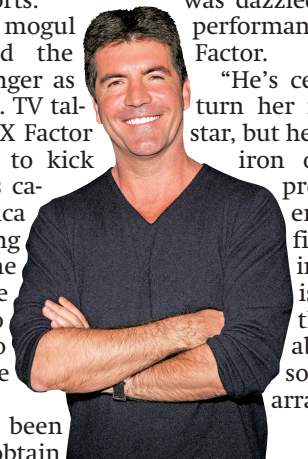
Cheryl has been struggling to obtain

the essential paperwork after being convicted of assault in 2003.

A source said: "Simon was dazzled by Cheryl's performance on The X Factor."

"He's certain he can turn her into a global star, but he just needs to iron out her visa problem. He's employed a firm of experts in Miami and is confident they will be able to reach some kind of arrangement."

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Michele McDougall, Weather Specialist & Host – Breakfast Television  
“My favourite part is reporting the weather. It fascinates me, and as we know around here, it’s always changing, keeping forecasters on their toes.”  
WEEKDAYS AT 6 A.M.

Take Five

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
15					16				17			
18								19	20			
			21					22				
23	24	25		26		27		28			29	30
31			32		33		34		35			
36				37		38		39		40		
		41			42		43		44			
45	46						47			48	49	50
51					52	53						
54					55				56			
57					58				59			

### Sudoku

**HOW TO PLAY:** Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone — one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

	7	9	6		8			2
	6	8						5
3			1					
8	3				6			
	2	4				6	5	
			4				1	7
					1			8
4						5	3	
2			3		5	7	9	

### Crossword across

- 1 Basilica section  
5 Chart  
8 Pinnacle  
12 Like some dorms  
13 Lamb’s dam  
14 Gunky stuff  
15 Trouble  
17 Low-voiced woman  
18 Seinfeld role  
19 Skips a phoneme  
21 Neither mate  
22 Galvanization matter
- 23 Bonfire residue  
26 Bottom line  
28 “The Lord is my shepherd, ...” e.g.  
31 Italy’s silhouette  
33 Party bowlful  
35 Despot  
36 Contestant’s postcard  
38 Glutton  
40 Type squares  
41 Sought restitution
- 43 Chic, to Austin Powers  
45 Antiknock rating  
47 Blood fluids  
51 Avoid at all costs  
52 Loss of courage  
54 Took a powder  
55 Citric beverage  
56 Unravel  
57 Dispatches, mob-style  
58 “Of course”  
59 Harvard rival

### Crossword down

- 1 Rue the run  
2 Motel amenity  
3 — good example  
4 Buzz Aldrin’s real name  
5 Preprinted, as postage  
6 Shock partner  
7 Actress Rosie  
8 Opposing  
9 Unsolved mystery  
10 Speck  
11 Grand verse  
16 Unsigned (Abbr.)
- 20 Back talk  
23 \$5 portrait  
24 Bart, to Homer  
25 Something exceptionally good  
27 Gratuity  
29 Felon’s flight  
30 — Doubtfire  
32 Those favoring a classless society?  
34 Zits  
37 Longing  
39 Prospector’s hope  
42 Rot  
44 Cartoon duck  
45 Scandinavian
- city  
46 Swedish Muppet  
48 Antitoxins  
49 Repast  
50 Eyelid woe  
53 Rhyming tribute

### PREVIOUS DAY’S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

M O T H	S P A	R A Y S										
A C R E	P A S	O G E E										
S H A M	R O C K	C U T E										
T O Y	I R E	S K E I N										
	C O T	W I N										
L I G H T	B O R R O W S											
A V E R	Y A K	O B O E										
D E N I	Z E N	F L I N T										
	S A W	N I L										
S H A R P	C A N	Y E S										
N O L O	R O C K	W E L L										
O P E C	C A R	A L S O										
W E E K	A L E	G L E E										

6	5	7	3	2	9	8	4	1
3	9	4	1	6	8	7	5	2
1	8	2	5	4	7	3	9	6
4	2	8	9	1	6	5	3	7
9	7	1	2	3	5	4	6	8
5	3	6	8	7	4	2	1	9
7	6	5	4	8	1	9	2	3
2	1	9	7	5	3	6	8	4
8	4	3	6	9	2	1	7	5

Find today’s answers + play more games at [metronews.ca](http://metronews.ca)

<b>SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:</b>	17-21 min .....	Smart	
Under 13 min .....	Genius	21-25 min .....	Not bad
13-17 min .....	Scholar	25+ min .....	Keep practising

### Metro Recipe of the Day



### Spiced steak with speedy ratatouille

**INGREDIENTS:**  
4 tbsp (60 ml) olive oil  
3 shallots  
2 cloves garlic  
1 lb (500 g) zucchini  
2/3 lb (300 g) baby, or small, eggplants  
1/2 tsp (2 ml) dried thyme  
1/2 tsp (2 ml) dried oregano  
4 tbsp (60 ml) red wine  
1 can (19 oz/540 ml) chopped tomatoes  
2 tbsp (25 ml) tomato paste  
Salt  
1 tsp (5 ml) ground coriander  
1 tsp (5 ml) ground cumin  
1 tsp (5 ml) ground paprika  
1/2 tsp (2 ml) cayenne pepper  
4 sirloin or rump steaks, about 6 oz (170 g) each

**METHOD:**  
1. Heat 2 tbsp (25 ml) oil in large saucepan. Peel and chop shallots and garlic, add to the pan, and cook over a moderate heat for 3-4 minutes.  
2. Meanwhile, rinse, dry, and trim zucchinis and

eggplants and cut into 1/2 in. (1 cm) chunks. Stir into shallots with thyme and oregano, and cook gently for 5 minutes.  
3. Add wine, tomatoes and juice, tomato paste and a little salt, then cover and simmer gently for about 15 minutes, stirring occasionally, until vegetables have softened.  
4. While ratatouille is cooking, put spices into small bowl, add pinch of salt, and mix together. Season steaks on both sides with spice mixture.  
5. Heat remaining olive oil in heavy-based frying pan until faint haze rises, then fry steaks for 4-4 1/2 minutes per side for rare steak, 5 1/2-6 for medium-rare or 6-8 1/2 for well done, depending on meat’s thickness. Serve with ratatouille.

**SERVES 4**

rd.ca

For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to [rd.ca](http://rd.ca) or check out Key Ingredients in this month’s Reader’s Digest, on newsstands now!

### Horoscopes

**ARIES**  
**MARCH 21-APRIL 20**  
Worrying interrupts your work time. You have to please a VIP. A dim-witted man will jump to conclusions.

**TAURUS**  
**APRIL 21-MAY 21**  
A superbly cynical person will fail. Call someone to express your respect. Going through a crisis is exasperating.

**GEMINI**  
**MAY 22-JUNE 21**  
Make a good deal with a tough call. It’s time to face the truth about indecision. Don’t be confrontational with the wrong person.

**CANCER**  
**JUNE 22-JULY 22**  
A simple error creates chaos. Stop chasing an impossible dream. Angry people will be astounded by a strange person.

**LEO**  
**JULY 23-AUG 23**  
You can influence the public. Don’t defeat yourself by being naive. A misplaced shoe will waste time.

**VIRGO**  
**AUG 24-SEPT 22**  
You’ll appreciate what an older person says. A phobia can be fixed by a professional. You’ll make a discovery when everybody talks at once.

**LIBRA**  
**SEPT 23-OCT 23**  
Your positive attitude will lift everyone’s spirits. A stubborn person will support you. Don’t lose your temper due to a quarrel.

**SCORPIO**  
**OCT 24-NOV 22**  
A guilty person avoids punishment again. An unemployed person is shaken by bureaucracy. An informer will come to your rescue.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
**NOV 23-DEC 21**  
An important man is being nagged. An upset friend will make a truce. A complicated argument will make you laugh.

**CAPRICORN**  
**DEC 22-JAN 20**  
You might escape from a passionate fascination. A business problem will develop later on. A charismatic person is oblivious to everyone.

**AQUARIUS**  
**JAN 21-FEB 18**  
Avoid causing resentment in a family. A significant event will be mystifying. Make a decision about a troublemaker.

**PISCES**  
**FEB 19-MARCH 20**  
A committed shopper finds a remarkable bargain. Reassure a fearful person. You can enjoy a fated encounter.

This day in history

JAN. 7, 1610: Galileo Galilei observes the four largest moons of Jupiter for the first time. He named them and in turn the four are called the Galilean moons.

JAN. 7, 1953: President Harry Truman announces that the United States has developed the hydrogen bomb.

JAN. 7, 1959: The United States recognizes the new Cuban government of Fidel Castro.

JAN. 7, 1991: Beginning of the operation Desert Storm, during the Gulf War.

JAN. 7, 199: The impeachment of President Bill Clinton begins.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

WORDY GURDY®

BY TRICKY RICKY KANE

Every answer is a rhyming pair of words (like FAT CAT and DOUBLE TROUBLE), and they will fit in the letter squares. The number after the definition tells you how many syllables in each word.

1. QB Tarkenton’s delivery trucks (1)  
2. Tug on a sheep’s coat (1)  
3. Ruffian’s moonshine holders (1)  
4. Irritatingly high-pitched grouch (1)  
5. One who glimpses a bishop’s hat (2)  
6. Actor Poitier’s bean-shaped organs (2)  
7. Pushing for spending lavishly (2)

ANSWERS  
1. MITER SIGHTER 2. PULL WOOL 3. TRUGS JUGS 4. SHRILL PILL  
5. METER SIGHTER 6. SIDNEY’S KIDNEY 7. URGING SPURGING

1-7-09

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